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A *niche* to *stitch*

University students will knit scarves for disadvantaged kids at the 'Stitch and Bitch' gathering

BY JARED PABEN
NEWS EDITOR

Manisse is an athletic girl who most people don't recognize as athletic.

Her camp counselor, University sociology student Crystal Cathcart, did, and she collected a football to give her for the holidays. She knew it would hit home for the girl.

"I think it'll be good for someone to recognize she's talented," Cathcart said. "She kind of gets pushed aside a lot because she's a girl."

Manisse is one of 15 11- to 13-year-old girls Cathcart is collecting gifts for this holiday season. Cathcart — who is a counselor at Camp AmeriKids — a New York-based camp for children who are affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS — is one of many counselors collecting presents to give to the children in December. But hers are different, she said. Her gifts are personalized, and after enlisting the help of other University students, many of hers will be handmade.

Tonight in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Alliance office in the basement of the EMU, nearly a dozen University students will knit scarves for the kids. At the 'Stitch and Bitch' gathering, some members will learn to knit and others will perfect their art, but all will be knitting gifts for disadvantaged kids they'll never meet.

For Denise Miller, a student at Pacific University, and Sheryl Ryan, a University anthro-



Sheryl Ryan, left, who is in her fifth year post-baccalaureate, and Denise Miller, who is getting a master's in teaching at Pacific University, knit in the LGBTQA office Monday night for kids with AIDS.

pology student, it's mostly about the charity and a little about the socializing.

"We started it because both of us really liked helping out people in need," Miller said.

The two women hatched the idea for the group after learning that Cathcart, who is a co-director of the LGBTQA, was collecting toys from members of the LGBT community.

"We thought it'd be fun to give kids something personal....," Miller said.

"...that somebody actually worked on," Ryan said, finishing Miller's sentence.

Cathcart said she's already collected sports equipment, a CD player, a jewelry-making

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IN BRIEF

Knight-time library hours to begin on Tuesday

With the term winding down, final class projects are due and exams are on their way. Those who are willing to stay up all night to get the work done can head to the Knight Library, which will be open 24 hours a day starting Tuesday until Dec. 10.

The Knight Library started the all-day, all-night program in spring 2003 to cater to students' extra study needs during dead week and finals week. Library spokesman Ron Renschler said the library has had "a very good turnout" of students using the facilities overnight in the past.

Last year it cost the library about \$5,000 per term to implement the extended service, according to a March 8 Emerald article.

Students, faculty or staff who wish to remain in or enter the library during extended hours will need to show their University IDs. While users will have access to photocopy machines, printers and computers, they will not be able to check out materials, videos or reserves during these extended hours.

Extended hours run from 12 a.m. to 8 a.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 p.m. Friday to 11 a.m. on Saturday and 7 p.m. Saturday to 11 a.m. Sunday. The library will close at 7 p.m. on Dec. 10.

All other University libraries will maintain their regular hours.

Intercession hours begin for all libraries from Dec. 11 through Jan. 2. Campus libraries will be closed weekends until Jan. 2, when the Knight, AAA and Science libraries will be open from noon to 6 p.m.

— Ayisha Yahya

ASUO Executive vetoes funding benchmarks

The Student Senate will reconsider a possible 'disparity' it made in deciding the budgets for three University organizations

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

The group that uses incidental fees to buy athletic tickets for students received a larger budget increase for next year on Tuesday night after the ASUO Executive vetoed the group's original allocation, forcing the Student Senate to revisit the decision.

The executive vetoed the funding benchmarks for the Athletic Department Finance Committee and the Programs Finance Committee, which the Senate set two weeks ago, to allow the Senate to reconsider what Finance Coordinator Mike Martell called a "disparity" in the manner in which the budgets were decided.

The Senate passed a 7 percent increase for the ADFC, up 1.7 percent from the group's previous benchmark, and reaffirmed its original benchmark of 5.62 percent for the PFC.

The Senate passed the original benchmarks for the ADFC, PFC and EMU Board of Directors during a three-hour meeting on Nov. 17, giving the PFC and the EMU Board what they requested, but approving a lower amount for the ADFC.

Senator and ADFC member Kevin Day filed a grievance alleging that the PFC and ADFC were funded in inconsistent ways.

The Green Tape Notebook, which contains the administrative rules used to run student government, dictates that the Senate approves funding benchmarks for the groups each year, which serve as guidelines for the amount of student funds the pro-

grams can allocate to other groups. The rules give ASUO President Adam Petkun veto power over all allocations of the Student Senate.

The Green Tape Notebook dictates that the Senate must finalize benchmarks for the following year by Nov. 30.

After receiving the executive vetoes, the Senate had to either reaffirm its original benchmarks by a two-thirds vote of its filled seats, a larger majority than is normally required for a Senate decision, or set new benchmarks for the groups.

The Senate voted 9-4-2 to pass the executive's recommendation of a 7 percent increase for the ADFC, which bargains with the Athletic Department to provide student tickets to games.

Previously, the Senate narrowly approved a 5.3 percent increase, an amount some senators feared would cause the ADFC not to fulfill its contractual obligations with the athletic department. The contract stipulates that students pay 50 percent of "fair market value" for tickets.

During the Nov. 17 meeting, Day said the ADFC currently funds about 48 percent and has never met the obligation. He said the 5.3 percent increase would meet the obligation if football ticket prices remained constant, but he said they will probably rise next year.

Day told the Emerald he filed the grievance because the 5.3 percent increase wouldn't allow for the ADFC to maintain its

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IN BRIEF

Gash found on vessel's cargo tank after Delaware River oil spill

PHILADELPHIA — Divers found a six-foot gash on the tanker that leaked 30,000 gallons of crude oil into the Delaware River, creating a 20-mile-long slick that killed dozens of birds and threatened other wildlife, officials said Sunday.

Divers investigating Athos I on Saturday found holes in the underwater cargo tank closest to the rear of the vessel and in an outside ballast tank, said Jim Lawrence, spokesman for the tanker's Greek owner, Tsakos Shipping and Trading SA.

The company said something probably struck the tanks underwater, but the Coast Guard investigation has not confirmed that, spokesman Lt. Buddy Dye said.

Two tug boats were guiding the 750-foot tanker toward a dock in Paulsboro, N.J., where the Venezuelan crude oil was to be delivered to a CITGO Petroleum Corp. refinery, when the leak was discovered late Friday.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials said 50 birds were dead from the spill, 300 others were affected and fish also were threatened.

More than 300 workers fanned out along both sides of the river Sunday to make a cleanup strategy. Crews also set up floating booms to try to keep oil from spreading into the tributaries that flow into the Delaware, but they probably won't be able to completely contain the damage, said Bradley Campbell, commissioner of New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection.

"This is going to be an effort that's going to take weeks and months," he said.

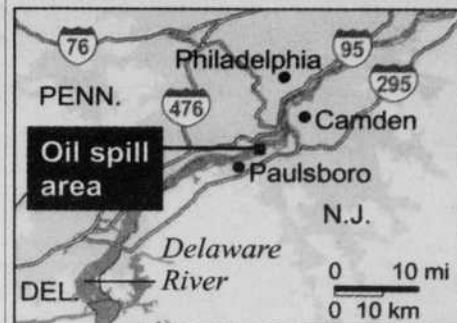
Acting New Jersey Gov. Richard J. Codey has said Tsakos will foot the bill for the cleanup, which he estimated will take two to three months. Campbell said the company has been cooperative and he didn't anticipate it would face any fines.

Residents were still fuming about the spill, the worst on the river in nearly a decade.

"It's terrible. It's absolutely terrible. Being a resident here and seeing the impact on the wildlife, it makes me sick," said Brian Goldy, 48, who often

Efforts under way to contain oil spill

Private contractors were called in to skim the 30,000 gallons of heavy crude oil that began leaking from a tanker Friday night into the Delaware River close to Philadelphia.



SOURCE: ESRI AP

spots hundreds of Canada geese from his waterfront home in Essington, Pa.

He said he found five geese on a grassy slab by the river Sunday, all of them blackened and unable to fly. In an effort to clean themselves, the birds appeared to be ingesting the oil, he said.

— The Associated Press